

Black Women in Leadership Symposium

How do we inspire change in our approach to diversity and inclusion across the arts and beyond?

Symposium Schedule

Thursday 23rd February

Northern School of Contemporary Dance, 98 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 4BH

11:30am-12:30pm – *Delegate Registration*

12:30pm-12:40pm – *Welcome*

Sharon Watson MBE

CEO & Principal, Northern School of Contemporary Dance

Callum Holt

Project Manager, Black Women in Leadership Symposium

12:40pm-1:00pm – *Keynote Speech*

Griselda Togobo MPhil, ACA

CEO, Forward Ladies

1:00pm-2:00pm – *Panel: Celebrating Black Female Leadership*

Host:

Sharon Watson MBE

CEO & Principal, Northern School of Contemporary Dance

Speakers:

Griselda Togobo MPhil, ACA

CEO, Forward Ladies

Pawlet Brookes MBE

CEO & Artistic Director, Serendipity

Pam Johnson

Head of Culture Programmes, Leeds City Council

In this panel, the speakers will talk about their own path to leadership, what being a good leader means to them, & what they see as the future of diverse leadership & how they think we will get there.

2:00pm-2:30pm – *Refreshments & Break*

2:30pm-3:30pm –

Round Table Discussions: Waiting to Exhale; Critical Reflections: Our Journey as we Continue to Challenge the Status Quo; BlackHacks: A roadmap for our engagement in leadership

Delegates will be able to choose which round table they attend and will be able to attend one of the other themes later in the day.

Waiting to Exhale

Facilitator:

Heather Nelson

CEO, Black Health Initiative

In this round table, delegates will focus on health & well-being in the context of leadership, recognising how leaders are responsible for their own well-being & the well-being of those that they lead, & the challenges people have maintaining their well-being when advocating for change.

Critical Reflections: Our Journey as we Continue to Challenge the Status Quo

Facilitator:

Heather Paul

Senior Lecturer, Leeds Beckett University

In this round table delegates will discuss how we can challenge the status quo, exploring both how existing leaders can support & encourage change & how individuals can empower themselves to make change.

BlackHacks: A roadmap for our engagement in leadership

Facilitator:

Amanda Parker

Cultural Consultant and Communications Director for The Forward Institute

When do we choose to lean in? Are you stepping up – or choosing to dodge a bullet?

The UK's economic crisis isn't going away any time soon: focusing on leadership in the cultural and creative industries, this session will invite delegates to collaborate on a set of principles and non-negotiables to steer our way through arts and cultural leadership.

- 3:30pm-4:00pm –** *Refreshments and Break*
- 4:00pm-5:00pm –** *Round Table Discussions: When They See Us; Critical Reflections: Our Journey as we Continue to Challenge the Status Quo; BlackHacks: A roadmap for our engagement in leadership*

These are a repetition of the earlier round tables. Delegates will again be able to choose which they attend.

- 5:00pm-6:00pm –** *Break*
- 6:00pm-7:30pm –** *Dinner provided by the Northern School of Contemporary Dance*
- 7:30pm-9:30pm –** *Performance of Alethia Antonia's Inscribed in Me*
- Central Bar
- 9:30pm-late –** *Networking Drinks*

Friday 24th February

Northern School of Contemporary Dance, 98 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 4BH

- 8:30am-9:30am –** *Breakfast provided by the Northern School of Contemporary Dance*
- 9:30am-10:30am –** *Panel: Can't Have Quality without the 'E'*

Host:

Heather Paul

Senior Lecturer, Leeds Beckett University

Speakers:

Sharon Watson MBE

CEO & Principal, Northern School of Contemporary Dance

Monique Jonas

Founder & Artistic Director, Jona Dance

In this panel, different artists at different stages in their careers reflect on their artistic practice, their approach to creative leadership, & what cultural activism means to them.

- 10:30am-11:00am –** *Refreshments and Break*
- 11:00am-12:00pm –** *Round Table Discussions: Young, Gifted, and Black; Whose Voice is it Anyway; When They See Us;*

Delegates will be able to choose which round table they attend, and will be able to attend one of the other themes later in the day.

Young, Gifted, and Black

Facilitator:

Gina Tavares Manuel

Emerging Spoken Word Artist, affiliated with the Geraldine Connor Foundation

Cara Mia Cruise Brahm

Emerging DJ, affiliated with the Geraldine Connor Foundation

Delivered with support from the Geraldine Connor Foundation, this round table will encourage delegates to focus on how we can support new leaders on their path to leadership – how we can support them in getting the skills & experiences they need, how we can nurture & grow talent, & how leading practices might need to change to account for what young people think of as leadership.

Whose Voice is it Anyway?

Facilitator:

Khadijah Ibrahiim

Artistic Director, Leeds Young Authors, & Independent Poet & Researcher

In this round table, delegates will discuss creative activism & the ways in which culture & the arts can challenge prejudice & work towards equality.

When They See Us

Facilitator:

Callum Holt

Independent Producer

In this round table, delegates will discuss allyship, exploring how we can use our own privilege to support & platform those around us.

12:00pm-12:30pm – *Refreshments and Break*

12:30pm-1:30pm – *Round Table Discussions: Young, Gifted, and Black; Whose Voice is it Anyway; Waiting to Exhale*

These are a repetition of the earlier round tables. Delegates will again be able to choose which they attend.

1:30pm-1:45pm – *Delegates reconvene in the Riley Theatre*

1:45pm-2:00pm – Closing Statements

Pawlet Brookes MBE

CEO & Artistic Director, Serendipity

Sharon Watson MBE

CEO & Principal, Northern School of Contemporary Dance

Throughout the Black Women in Leadership Symposium, delegates will also be invited to reflect & set intentions and actions for themselves, & will be invited to contribute to a resource titled “Educate Yourself” which will contain recommendations of books, podcasts, articles, music, theatre pieces etc. that will enable people to better develop their knowledge around equality, diversity, inclusion, & leadership.